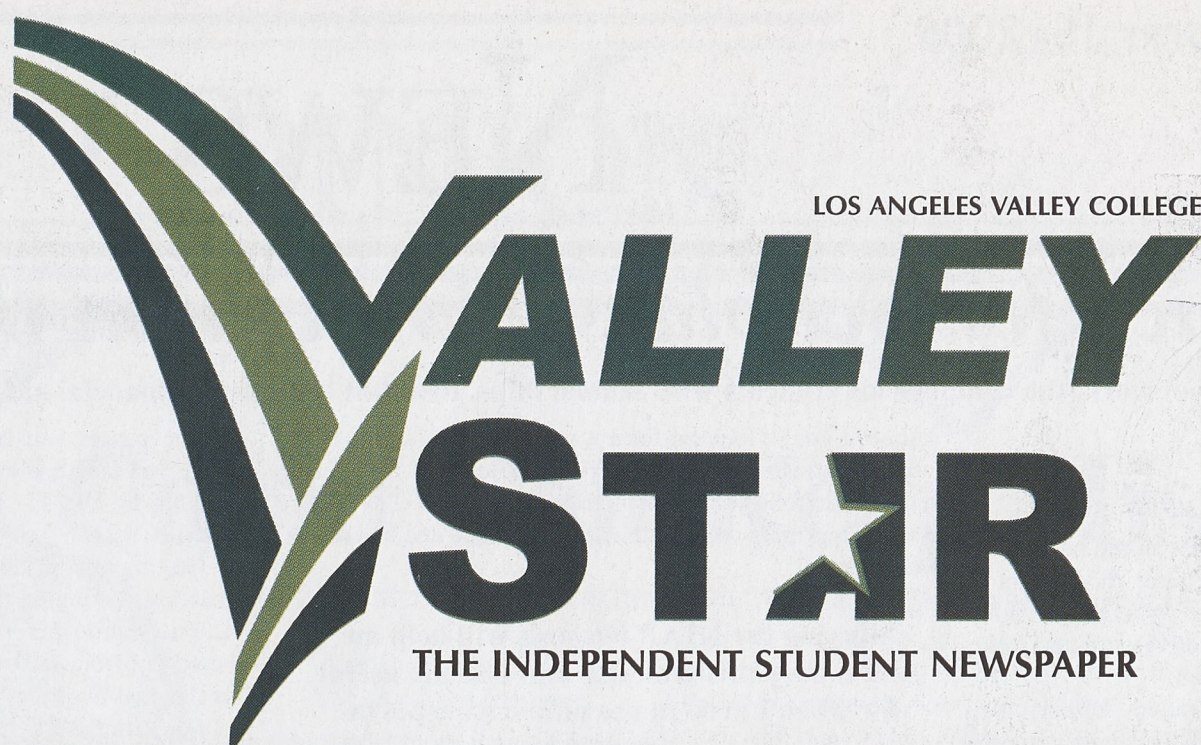


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Monarchs Soar At Moorpark

To see more photos of the Valley College Track and Field Team at Moorpark see...

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FEBRUARY 18, 2009



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR
Sandra Mayo addressing officials during the budget meeting,

Budget Cuts Claim Classes

■ Meeting raises concerns regarding class sizes

SARAH KNOWLES
NEWS EDITOR

The Valley College Budget Committee discussed ways to cut costs Feb. 10 during the first budget meeting of 2009. Various methods will include decreasing the number of classes available while increasing class size throughout the campus.

Class capacity is already on the increase, with the average winter semester head count rising from 33.8 students per class in 2008, to 37.6 in 2009, according to Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandra Mayo. She stated that class size must continue to grow to replace the 100 classes dropped from this semester.

"If you [teachers] can take more students, absolutely," said Mayo. "If you have the chairs and 55 students turn up, take them. That will be very helpful in paying down our debt."

Acting President Sue Carleo stressed that students' health and safety would not be threatened by the growth in class size.

"We need to build class size only if it's safe," said Carleo. "We don't want students hanging out of windows."

Various economical practices, including thermostat control, were stressed by Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer, who stated that as student numbers increase, so do the cost of supplies, such as toiletries and repairs. Jacobsmeyer said that "hourly costs are \$200,000 less than last year because we are becoming more economical with classes."

While students attempt to add already-packed classes, new student Andrew Rafner believes the over-crowded lectures will plague the learning experience.

"It's so full, it feels like half of the people here don't really care," said Rafner in regards to his full political science class. "I added Dec. 5. You have an appointment to register. Why leave it so late?"

While the future for Valley's budget remains uncertain, Carleo remains optimistic, stating that filling classes should have no negative impact on students.

"Students should contact their state legislators to emphasize the importance of funding our colleges," she said.



TAKE A WOK ON THE WILD SIDE

Jonathan Gibby, Editor in Chief / Valley Star
The Emperor Express, located on Burbank Blvd. offers authentic Chinese food at affordable prices. Within walking distance of Valley College, students can enjoy their New York Style Egg Rolls and other signature dishes. For full story, see Valley Life, page 4.

Witnesses to Change

■ Valley College staff and students take a historic journey to Capitol Hill to see Barack Obama become president.

KRISTEN BECKER
COPY EDITOR

On Jan. 21, millions of people across the country and around the world, united to watch history as Barack Obama raised his right hand, take the oath of office and become the 44th president of the United States.

Yasmine Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, was one of more than a million people who crowded onto the National Mall to witness history in person. She decided to take the trip because of what she has lived through and seen during her lifetime.

"I was born two years before

commissioner of political affairs, faced her fear of flying in order to make it to her destination, and was determined to see the inauguration of the first candidate she had seen truly reach out to young people.

"I'm only human and I couldn't help but get emotional [when Obama was sworn in]. Honestly, in high school and middle school, I hated history. . . Now I seem to want to know as much as possible about it. . . I sort of lived [history] when 9/11 happened and this was just a different, positive side of it."

"..In my lifetime, I did not ever think that I would see America elect a biracial president."

- Yasmine Delahoussaye

vice president of student services

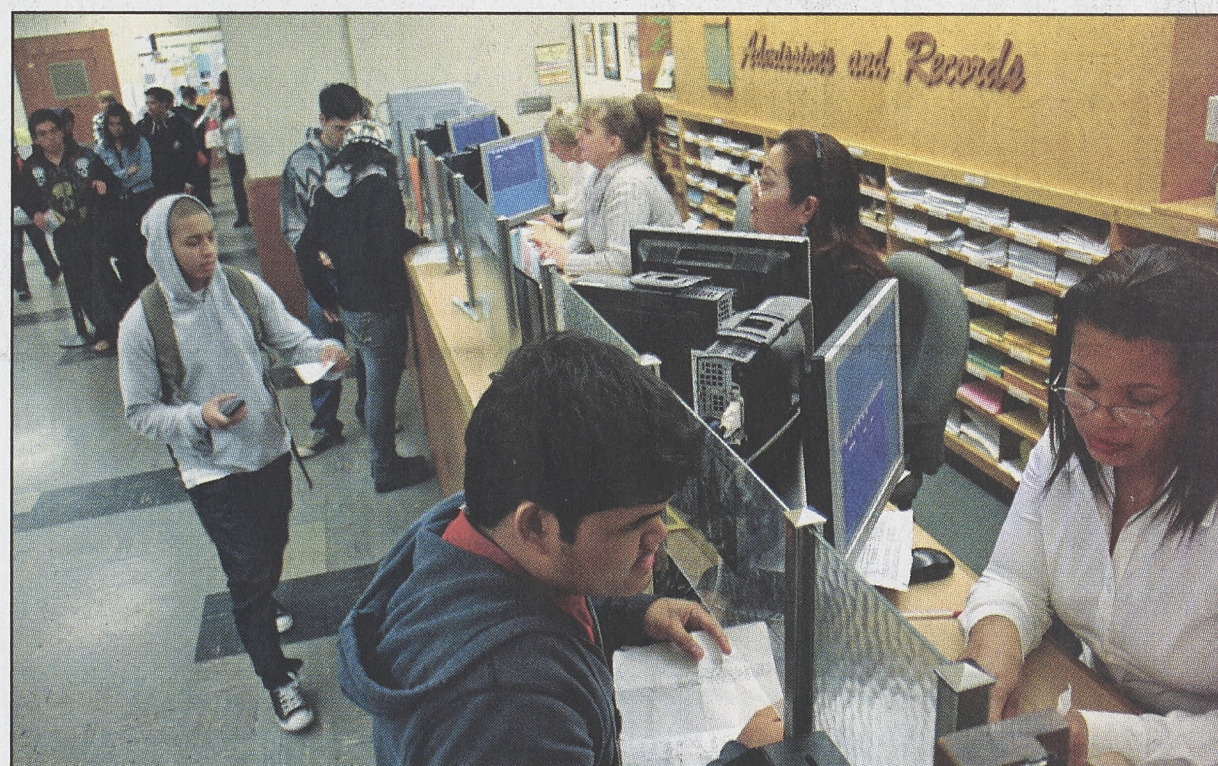
Brown vs. Board of Education, so I grew up in the segregated South. . . So, in my lifetime, I did not ever think that I would see America elect a biracial president," Delahoussaye explained. "To me, that was history and I wanted to be a part of that history. It has special meaning to me because of all the struggles that African-Americans have gone through in this country. I came from that generation where I know what those struggles were."

Guadalupe Burgara, ASU

Delahoussaye also helped make it possible for Burgara and Valley students Jamaceo Black and Tara Perry to make the trek to the nation's capitol, paying for their airfare and also tickets to the inaugural ball sponsored by the state of California.

The students also received financial assistance from Valley faculty and staff as well as from members of the community. According to Raul Castillo, director of the Los Angeles Valley

see *Obama* page 2



KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
LONG LINES - Students queue up in Admissions and Records to enroll in spring classes. Historically, people return to school when the economy experiences a downturn.

Tough Economical Times Fail to Dampen Hope for Job Seekers

■ The unemployed and disenfranchised see new opportunities through an on campus job club.

BY ROGER KING
STAFF WRITER

During a Job Club meeting on Feb. 12 at Valley College's Job Training Center, about 40 people introduced themselves as currently unemployed and looking for work. The skill sets of these people ranged from high-end machine operators to insurance adjusters. Focusing on interview skills and how to affectively market abilities, the free bi-weekly club links people to potential employers.

With the California Employment Development Department reporting unemployment figures over 9 percent in California and higher in Los Angeles, programs like the Job Training Center at Valley are

increasingly important.

Roberto Gutierrez, Program Manager, says the center seeks "all emergent employment opportunities" for the programs' participants. The center helps job seekers learn new skills and market existing ones through federally subsidized training programs.

The programs include the Advanced Manufacturing Training Institute and several others, ranging from Metro bus operators to a health-care career academy.

Job Center Director Lennie Ciufo reports that at least 80 percent of those who complete the training classes and receive a Certificate of Achievement

see *Job Center* page 2

NEWS

Sound Advice for Scholars Throughout the Spring

■ With the stress of a new year of work, the campus aids students with scholarships, discount bus passes, financial aid and tutoring.

BY IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

As students woefully take their place in the never ending line to add classes in the Campus Center, the thought of the next four months of study can be overwhelming. Valley College offers services to unload some pressure and make sure students have all the help they need.

Programs like TRIO and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) help students with counseling, transfer assistance and tutoring. EOPS Tutor Michael Nakhomanovich states that the service helps with a range of subjects.

"From Math, English, Biology and other courses, we try to explain the best way we can so students have a better understanding of what is expected in the classroom," said Nakhomanovich.

Parking is always chaotic at the beginning of the semes-

ter, so if you're looking for a way to save gas and not deal with the stress of finding parking, Valley will be offering students enrolled in 12 or more units a \$15 I-TAP Metro pass. The pass is valid until the end of June and has unlimited usage.

"Buying the I-TAP bus pass will help me save money this semester and become useful for when I need to use public transportation."

- Omar Nieto
student

"Buying the I-TAP bus pass will help me save money this semester and become useful for when I need to use public transportation," said student Omar Nieto.

The passes can be purchased at the business office, where you can also buy a parking permit for the semester, required by Feb 23. The office is located behind the cafeteria.

Getting around campus is no walk in the park, with construction continuing throughout these first weeks. The free campus shuttle bus offers students transportation around the school from 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., and 5:30 - 10:30 p.m. for the next two weeks.

Cal Grants and financial aid are available for many students. Applications for the spring semester must be processed by March 2 and information on these can be found in the Financial Aid Office, located between the Campus Center and North Gym.

Scholarships, ranging from \$250 and up are also available to students. The scholarships are both general and major-specific and are academically as well as needs based. Forms and additional information can be found at the Foundin Office in the Administration Building.

'Job Center'

continued from page 1

are able to integrate back into the workforce.

With the ongoing transformation of major industry to green technology, such as solar panels, many new types of jobs should be created within the next few years. According to the Workforce

Investment Board in Los Angeles, one major challenge could be keeping up with the demand for specifically trained workers.

Fred Flores, communications director at the office of Van Nuys Democratic Congressman Howard Berman, said Berman would back potential initiatives to help link employers with students through programs like the Job Center.

The Economic Stimulus Bill passed

by Congress on Feb. 13 stands to inject much needed revenue into programs that stem from the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. More than \$1 billion earmarked for "dislocated worker" training and WIA programs should go into individual state funds the funds based upon formulas established by the WIA.

This funding can help clubs including the LAVC Job Center create better programs to address the skilled labor needs

of the 21st century.

"Lennie [Ciufu] and the program at LAVC certainly are some of the very best in the business," said Diane Martinez, from the Workforce Development office of the Los Angeles Community College District. "They are creative and equally responsive to the needs of students and businesses."

The LAVC Job Center is located adjacent to the cafeteria, across from Monarch

'Obama'

continued from page 1

College Foundation, faculty members requested that the Foundation set up accounts so they could donate funds to the students who wanted to attend the historic event.

Both ed., who was photographed by an Associated Press photographer while waving to President Obama during the parade, and Burgara, agreed that the experience was worth the freezing temperatures and record-breaking crowds. "I still say, all in all, looking back on it, I wouldn't trade

it for anything in the world and if I had to do it all over again, I would," Delahoussaye exclaimed

"I'm only human and I couldn't help but get emotional [when Obama was sworn in]."

- Yasmine Delahoussaye
vice president of student services

DEMOLITION ALLEY



SCOTT MITCHELL / CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
A Valley College student checks out the demolition that is taking place on campus. The Physics and Chemistry Buildings are being torn down in preparation for the construction of a new Student Services Building. The construction is being funded by Proposition J and Bond Measure A/AA.

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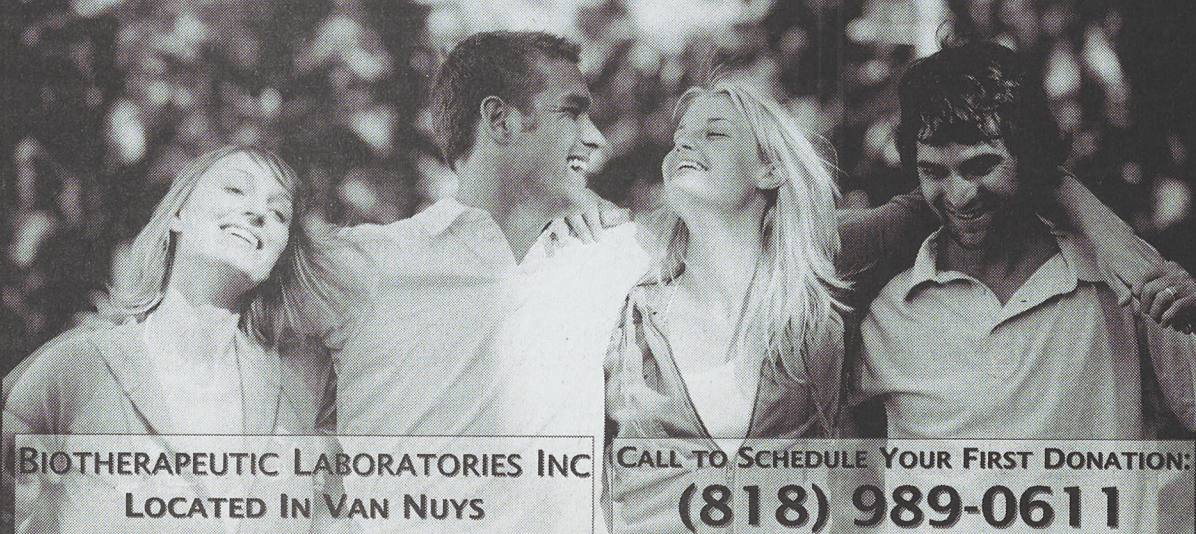


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Cupid Can Keep His Arrow

■ Love is the sweetest thing, until you realize the gaping hole that it burns in the pocket.

SASHA SANTACRUZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

You waited more than an hour to get a table for two at the restaurant, the waiter had the nerve to rush your dinner, and you go home empty-handed. When you begin to calculate how much you spent on Valentine's Day, you realize you should have gone with the old-fashioned way of just saying "I love you."

Love will make you do some crazy things, like spend an average of \$163 on your girlfriend while she only spends an average of \$84.72 on you, according to National Retail Federation's 2009 Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions.

"It's just another day to spoil the women," said Valley student Derek Howard. "Valentine's

Day is an excuse for men to go pocket deep in debt just to have one satisfying moment with a chick or a dude and hope to get lucky."

Money is the new measure of how to count the ways you love someone. However, what we overlook is that spending dollars you don't have on extravagant items will help you forget your insecurities (and mounting financial debt) only long enough to last you through the night.

"Valentines Day is an excuse for men to go pocket deep in debt just to have one satisfying moment with a chick or a dude and hope to be lucky."

- Valley student
Derek Howard

According to Hallmark, 188 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion. The unfortunate part of receiving a card is that the person who gave this to you couldn't think of their own words to express their never-ending love and devotion.

It's a commercialized

day that businesses look forward to. Hallmark has a complete aisle for Valentine's cards, restaurants are booked, flower shops are overcrowded and KAY Jewelers is there to remind you that every kiss begins with KAY, and a down payment of \$299.99.

These days, your love life seems to be determined by Valentine's Day; if you forget it then you might as well forget you were even in a relationship. If you don't buy them a gift, it suddenly means you don't love them or speculation arises.

"It feels like things have to get done because the day is observed," said Valley student Alexandria Hernandez. "I love receiving gifts, but it doesn't feel genuine."

Holidays are reserved to honor people that made an impact or for events that made history, not to remember the execution of St. Valentine or the St. Valentine's day-Massacre. So, at the end of the day, when you noticed nothing was in your wallet and realized how ludicrous the day was, just remember that love is priceless, or at least, it once was.

Facebook, no Face Time for Slaves to Networking

■ The social networking site popular with the college set is a whole lot more than fun photos and friend requests.

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

A wedding, three newborns, an overseas vacation, and reconnecting with the past. Some of you may assume that this description is the basis of a movie script, but no, this is the life of my friends and I, Facebook style.

It used to be that I would rely on the grapevine to hear gossip from my social circle, but with a peek at my news feed, up to the minute information is at my fingertips. Most of the tidbits that pop up on my screen are happy, but nasty surprises can lurk inside the friendly façade of my homepage. Facebook will coldly tell you when your significant other wants out of a relationship, or when your genial Friend Request to your 8th grade best friend has been rejected.

Facebook is creeping its way into our work lives too, and poses a threat to more than productivity. Many schools and businesses have blocked the site in an effort to encourage a busy mind set, leaving scholars and employees to find their fix elsewhere. However, those with an active social life should beware; your boss can easily see the photos of what you were truly up to last weekend, even though you claimed you were laid up with the flu the following Monday.

The 150 million Facebook users around the world must not mind that their life is open for

all to see, or the assistance that the networking behemoth provides as a procrastination tool. It is a burgeoning addiction of mine; with my nearest and dearest 263 friends one click away. What I don't like is my growing case of Facebook nvy.

The humble status update forms the backbone of Facebook, telling you succinctly what is on your friends' mind. More often than not, however, it raises feelings of jealousy inside of me rather than a sated curiosity. Currently, my status reads, "Astrid is watching the tele." Pretty mundane when you consider that every time I log on, I see the adventures that my friends are having backpacking around Asia, going skydiving, or even updates written in Latin. Sometimes, I consider embellishing my status to be more exciting, but there aren't many ways to liven up "Astrid is cooking dinner."

Perhaps the way for us to keep life and our Facebook alter egos separate is to stop being so dependent on it. As much fun as it is seeing how many points you can rack up in Mob Wars, you can't beat one-on-one face time out there in the real world. So excuse me, I must fight the urge to log in and see if anything new has happened in my world in the last ten minutes.

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send Letters to the Editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for publication. A full name and contact information must be supplied in order to be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday to be included in the next edition.

CAMPUS VIEW:

Photos by Ana Rosa Murillo/Valley Star

What do you think of the media attention given to 'Octo-Mom' Nadya Suleman?



"She's probably doing it for some attention. She's trying really hard to be Angelina Jolie. We should not give her the attention."

- Nazik Atkozayan
biology



"It's nonsense, I don't think she needs all that attention."

- Crystal Chavez
mechanical
engineering



"It's someone's personal business. I think the media should stay out of it."

- Billy Morales
business



"It's just what she desires. There should be a law against how many eggs can be implanted using IVF."

- Otissa Johnson
business

Suleman and the Eight Baby Circus

■ The recent birth of octuplets should have brought elation, but we are transfixed on the media frenzy surrounding them.

BY JOE LAFLEUR
OPINION EDITOR

You're sitting at home on your couch, feet up after a long day, flipping through channels on your TV. There's nothing on MTV and TMZ doesn't come on again until 11:30 p.m., so you're forced to watch the evening news. But, lucky for you, there's an O.J. Simpson-like chase on and you can't stop watching.

This, more or less, is the basis for our fixation with Nadya Suleman, an out-of-work Los Angeles native and single mother of six, who gave birth to octuplets on Jan. 26, and has since been criticized, loathed and threatened. By now, the American public knows this story. We have formed our opinions, picked the label, placed the tag and as much as we may scrutinize the choices and life-style of this woman, we quietly love her for these same reasons.

Suleman is no longer just an irresponsible mother of 14, she is a train wreck - a slow-speed chase on the evening news and a gift from the reality TV show gods. As ignorant as her actions seem to be, we as a society cannot change the channel, and three weeks after she popped

out number eight, there isn't a story the media hasn't written about her. At press date, Suleman's name pulls 918,000 results from the search engine Google, ranging from New York Times articles to blog posts on Scandalist.com.

She has now become a public figure and this is her 15 minutes of fame. The trade off is that the same spotlight she put herself under is burning her. According to the Associated Press, Suleman has received over 500 threats that are currently being investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department. Yet, Suleman proves that the saying, there is no such thing as bad press, is undoubtedly true. Any attention she receives, whether good or bad, just gives her more to say. With every threat made against her, she gains more and more empathy from the public, and every prime-time television interview the media allows only extends her celebrity shelf life.

The sad truth is that Suleman will probably get offers from reality TV executives, and when that happens, if it hasn't already, the public will undoubtedly tune in. Ratings will be high but, eventually, just like any slow-speed chase, it will have to end, and we will move on to the next

disaster because that is the American way.

"I don't agree at all with her or her decisions," said Brett Neuner, a philosophy major at Valley College. "But, if she was to get her own reality TV show, I'll admit that I will be the first to watch it."

We are a tabloid nation that is obsessed with people like Suleman. Though we may deny it, we need her as much as she seems to need the attention, because she reminds

us that despite all of our flaws, there is always someone worse off than we are at any moment. The longer we feed her the attention, the longer we put off the inevitable - the quick descent from the top and crushing weight of being faced with the reality of raising 14 kids on her own. Just as violence breeds violence, the more notoriety we give her the more appealing we make it for others like her to do the same, considering only the fame and not the final cost.



EDUARDO HERRERA / VALLEY STAR

Spirit of Valley Shines in Knappen

■ **Legendary on and off the track, Tim Knappen is the never-seen man behind the scenes who makes all the glory happen.**

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR

Maybe you have seen him driving a cart around campus or cleaning the gymnasium floors, but more likely than not, you have never met Tim 'The Snake' Knappen. For those lucky enough to know him, Knappen is legendary for his antics on and off the field.

Knappen has worked at Valley College for 15 years, starting as a track coach in 1994. Currently, he's the men's physical education attendant and stadium manager. Amongst his duties, he maintains the basketball gym and equipment and washes the players' jerseys.

Dale Beck, sports information director, has known Knappen for 36 years, and can easily recall stories of Knappen's physical prowess.

"Tim would accept any dare; I've seen that he loves a challenge," said Beck. "He's a good guy. He's dedicated to athletics. He knows a lot about it."

Knappen grew up wanting to hit baseballs into roaring crowds in the major leagues until he fell in love with pole-vaulting while a sophomore at Grant High School. Upon his graduation in 1967, he enrolled at Valley and joined the cross-country and track and field teams.

His first two seasons fell flat with injuries and illness — he contracted pneumonia bronchitis in 1969. However, with a switch up in his training, he finished his final year at Valley undefeated in every dual-meet competition, while breaking Valley's pole-vaulting record 12 times and the decathlon record three times. He finished the season becoming Metropolitan Conference Champion, So Cal Champion and State Champion in 1970.

"I went back to the drawing board, I figured it was cross country that's slowing me down, so I chopped off cross country. I wanted to be more flexible... so I started doing more stretching and yoga," Knappen said of his training for his championship year.

He transferred to Arizona State, graduating with a degree in parks and recreation in 1973. From there, he coached track and field at Grant, Chaminade and Alemany high schools, eventually ending back at



INDESPENSIBLE - Tim Knappen stands on the Monarch Stadium field surrounded by the sports equipment he is responsible for. Knappen is a Valley track and field champion and an integral part of the sports program.

Valley, where he has remained since.

Off the track, Knappen has grown quite a reputation for entertaining the audience during half time at basketball games. He would challenge the game goers to handstand competitions, standing on his hands for two to three minutes at a time while audience members struggled for seconds.

In his most daring stunt, during Grant High's 1974 graduation, he dressed himself in nothing but a mere loincloth and climbed atop Valley's stadium's light post and did not one but two hand-

stands.

"I received two standing ovations. It couldn't have been better. No wind that day, that's why I did it twice," said Knappen. "From up there it looked like a big wave. I remember thinking it looked so good, I'd do it again."

Chuck Ferrero, the college's athletic director, has known Knappen for 20 years, and is still impressed with his physical dominance, work ethic and love for Valley.

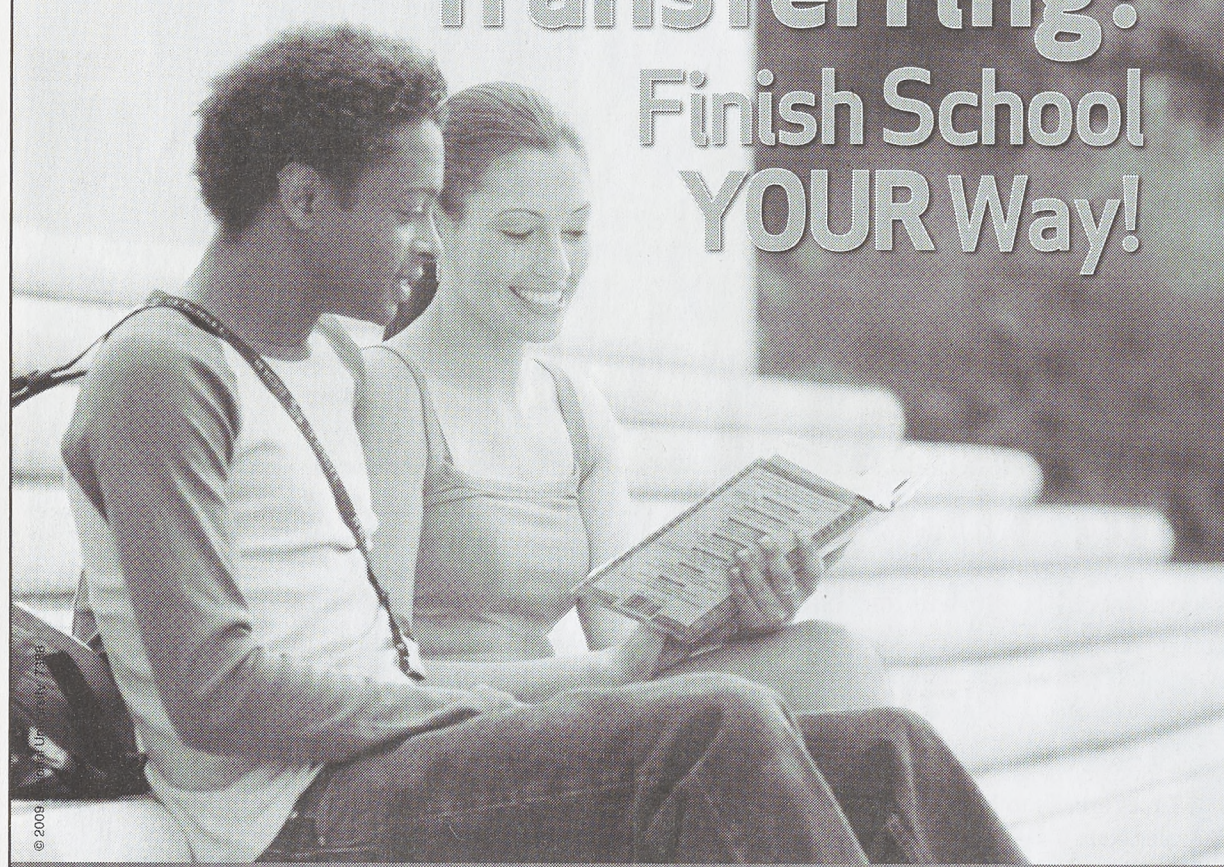
"Tim is a character. He does all kinds of stuff

— he still climbs the rope, he's still in tremendous shape physically," said Ferrero. "He's a great addition to our department. I think everybody here that coaches, men's PE chair, and teachers appreciate his effort and all the work he puts in here."

Remaining hidden behind the coaching staff and student athletes, Knappen's dedication and heart for Valley exceeds the field. His antics are impressive for anyone who has seen him in motion, but it's his unfaltering love and appreciation for this school that is his true legend.

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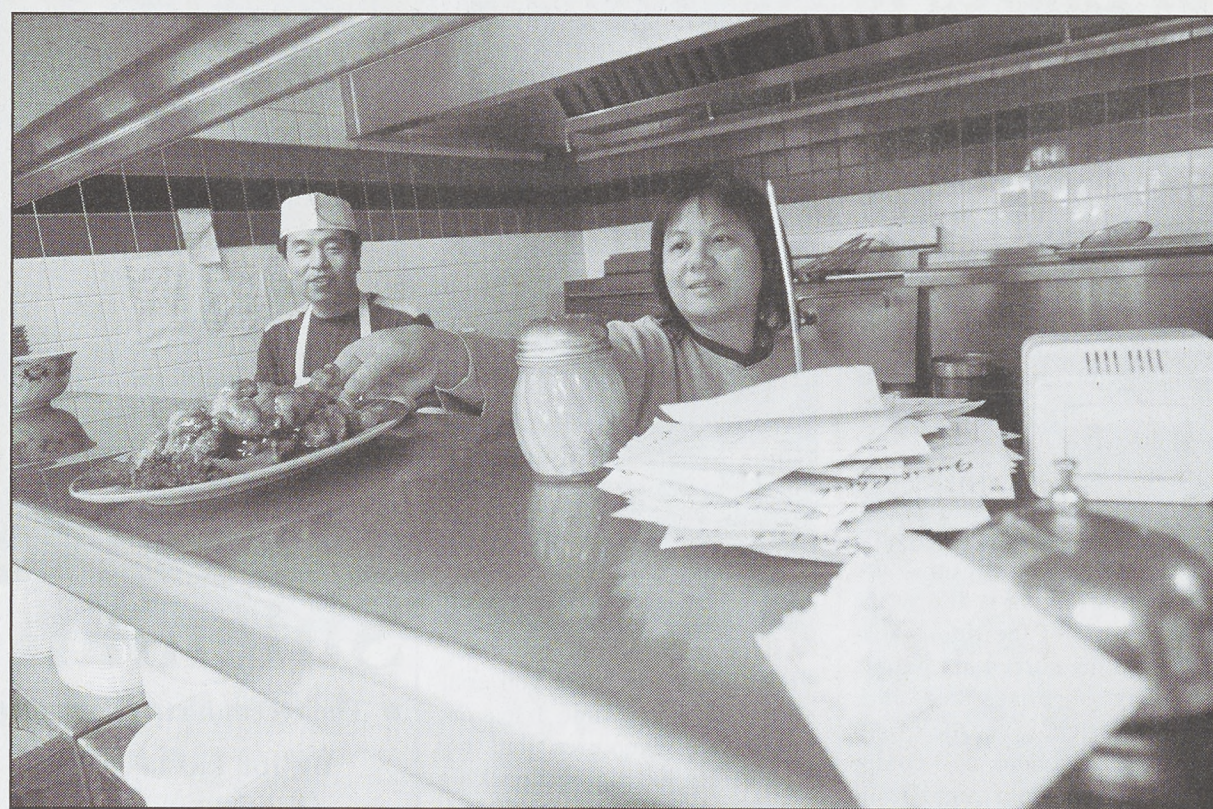
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Restaurant Offers Quick Alternative



FRESH DISH — All meals are cooked to order and do not spend time sitting under heating lamps. The owners pride themselves on using only the freshest ingredients to prepare each dish.

JASMINE JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

Emperor Express, conveniently located on the corner of Fulton and Burbank, gives its clientele a place to enjoy fresh Chinese food and delivers prompt service to get you to back to your busy schedule. Being right across the street from campus, students can duck in and out between classes with no trouble.

You might be fooled by its size, but this restaurant has plenty to offer. The eatery draws in business during the afternoon with their lunch special, which is sure to please your appetite. Customers are able to choose one entrée of their choice for a practical price of \$4.25. The plate is covered with an overwhelming amount; enough to feed two. So if the price is still more than what you would like to pay you can

take another person and split the tab.

The restaurant offers a variety of dishes at a reasonable price. Popular 'safe zone' foods such as egg drop soup, egg rolls, orange chicken peel and fried rice are gratifying meals that will have you returning.

All the food is cooked to order, so it's always fresh and hot to give its consumers the delectable taste. With two cooks working the back, your food is brought out in about 10 minutes to satisfy your craving.

"This place is so easy for me to go to because I have an hour break in between my classes and the service is so quick I can just eat and go," said Valley student Beverly Godinez.

The family owned business is dedicated to hospitality; guests who walk in are greeted and without delay ask you what you would like to order. The tables are kept clean so you



JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR
NEW YORK EGG ROLLS — One of the main draws of the restaurant are egg rolls the size of burritos.

can take pleasure in sitting anywhere you like. It's hanging art work contributes to its comfortable setting.

Emperor Express gives students a great option to eat during the day, being both a time saver and not putting a dent in your bank account.

VALLEY LIFE

5

Welcome Week Brings Freebies, Winter Chills

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR

It's the first week of the spring semester and the campus is welcoming its students despite the gusting winds and cold weather attacking Valley College. The Associated Student Union withstood the front by hosting their traditional welcome week festivities.

TRiO, which is a student support system for low income students, Philosophy Club and the Health Care Center tabled to promote student involvement while celebrating the beginning of the new semester.

ASU set up a dartboard where students had the opportunity to play for a free doughnut and handed out the ever-popular Scantrons to all who roamed by. ASU Inter Club Council Rep. Rafael Corral took this time to get to know new students while spreading the word about Valley's student government and clubs.

"We are tabling out here to try and promote the ASU, to get people involved and to know why it's important for them to pay their fees," said Corral. "And when they pay their fees, we are able to have events like these where we are able to give out free doughnuts just for the students. We do it all for them."

The dartboard proved to be a success, as music major Sheehan Halter took time between classes to toss a few with a friend.

"This is cool. The dartboard is definitely really cool," he said between shots.

Marie Sandoval, medical assistant in the Health Care Center, cheerfully offered goody bags filled with candy, condoms and a pamphlet on sexual safety etiquette to promote National Condom day, which appropriately falls on Valentine's Day.

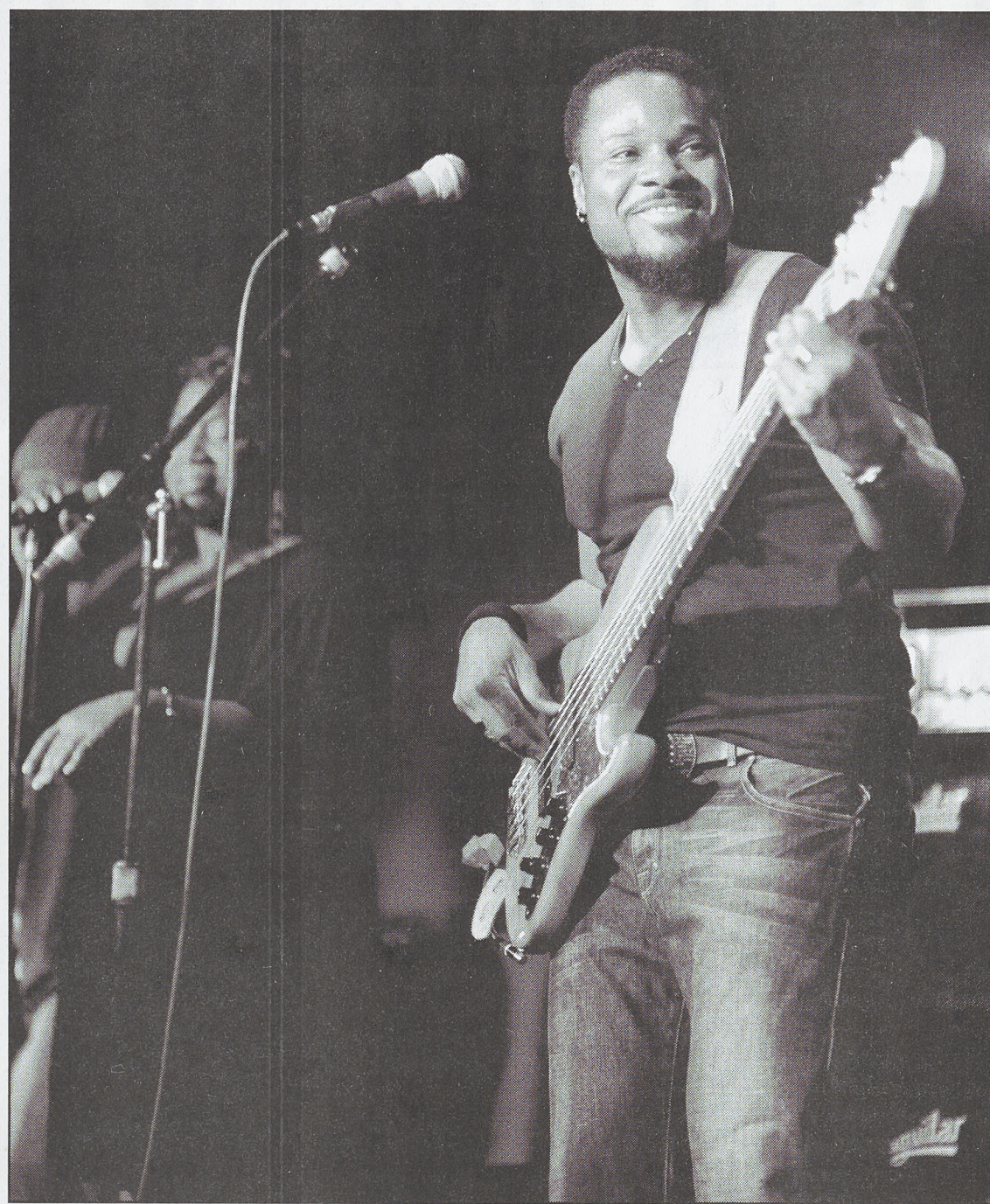
"It's to help prevent STDs and unwanted pregnancies; it's just to make people safe so we teach them how to respect themselves, love responsibly and be safe," she said. "We give them [students] condoms so they don't have excuses, they're all free; they can take as many as they want."

Honor society Tae Alpha Epsilon took advantage of the bustling students to sell raffle tickets for a free iPod Nano, with half the proceeds going to the East Valley Animal Care Shelter.

Patrick Thompson, president of TAE said, "We are already making money for the Animal shelter ... We raised, with our raffle last semester, over \$500 and half that is going to the Animal Shelter."

The Child Development and the Media Arts Clubs also withstood the wind to promote their club, while handing out fliers, doughnuts and candy to students who dropped by.

For more information on ASU or any other clubs on campus, visit the ASU Office located in Campus Center 102.



Malcom-Jamal Warner in Concert

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Actor-musician Malcom-Jamal Warner and his band perform cuts from his new album, "Miles Long" to a full house at the Catalina Bar and Grill in Hollywood last week. The set included spoken word, classic jazz, funk, and old school R&B songs.

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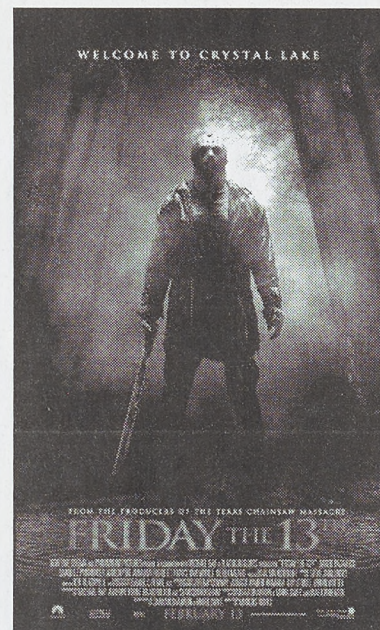
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Jason Slays Audience in 'Friday' Rehash

JOSH SPENCE
ONLINE ADMINISTRATOR

One might imagine rebooting a major film franchise like "Friday the 13th" a daunting task given the nearly 30 years of blood, gore, history and iconography that belongs to the one and only Jason Voorhees.

Fortunately for director Marcus Nispel, he didn't have to worry about that at all. Instead of developing plot, backstory, drama, tension, or horror, Nispel focuses on sex, drugs, and more sex while giving the viewer a laughter of a horror film more suited for late night Cinemax than a silver screen cineplex.

Jared Padalecki stars as Clay, who drives into Crystal Lake searching for his missing sister, whom Jason has kidnapped because she bears a resemblance to his mother when she was younger.

What ultimately dooms "Friday's" chance at respectability is a complete lack of story, in the film itself and from a rebooting standpoint. The opening black and white montage is supposed to show the viewer why Crystal Lake is

cursed, save for the fact Nispel doesn't explain what's going on or for what reason. Had the viewer seen the original, this would have made more sense and this is the prime reason why "Friday the 13th" has failed. Culling story elements from the first four Jason films and frankensteining them into one film is a great way of condensing the history of Voorhees, except that Nispel relies on the viewer to have seen the previous films to understand what's going on at present.

As far as plot goes, the storyline has the arc similar to a paid advertisement: Give the viewer a reason why Jason is. Have him brought back to life after being struck by lightning (Jason IV) or put into space for research (Jason X). Considering that this film is a reboot, Nispel could've had elements of abuse, isolation or revenge, but instead, we have Jason hacking away at yuppie college kids in their plush summer homes, and scraggly campers in search of the El Dorado of Cannibis that happens to be Crystal Lake. The characters are overblown, annoying stereotypes that you root for Jason to end their suffering and the viewers.

The cinematography is expected and uninspired. Nispel takes away any real sense of horror by using the standard jumpcut and loud sound-effect technique that has plagued every "horror" film for the past decade. The pace is so lock step that the viewers teeter on the verge of boredom rather than terror.

"Friday the 13th" is a clunker similar to the horror remakes of recent years ("Texas Chainsaw Massacre," "The Hitcher," "The Amityville Horror"). You'll enter the theater excited and exit wishing for what could've been. Scary indeed.

LAVC
EVENTS

Wednesday, February 18

The LAVC Theater Arts Department will be holding auditions for its upcoming production of Alice, from 3-6 p.m. in the Horseshoe Theater. In addition, the production is also seeking singers and musicians. For more information, visit <http://lavc.edu/theatre/index.html>

Wednesday, February 18

The LAVC Art Gallery will hold a reception and discussion for its new mini-exhibition entitled Intuitive Eye: The Diana Zlotnick Collection at 7 p.m. in the LAVC Art History Lecture Hall (Art 103). The mini-exhibition will run from February 18 - March 26, and will be open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. All events are free to the public.

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



LAMB OF GOD, WRATH

OTHER RELEASES:
Hatebreed, *For the Lions*
The Bran Flakes, *I have hands*
Nosound, *Lightdark*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:




TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL, TYLER PERRY

UPCOMING RELEASES:
Fired Up
Echelon Conspiracy
Eleven Minutes

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY, Haley Bennett

OTHER RELEASES:
What Just Happened
Badland
Ironweed

CONCERTS

PICK OF THE WEEK:



DANZIG AT VENTURA THEATER 2/21/2009

February 20, 2009
Pennywise @ The Glass House
Nofx @ Canyon Club
Donavon Frankenreiter @ The Roxy

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, Feb. 18
Mount St. Mary's Rep 10am-1pm

Thursday, February 19
CSU Los Angeles rep 9am-12pm

Tuesday, February 24
CSU Northridge rep 3pm-7pm

Devry University 10am-1pm
Monarch Square

All events in Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless other wise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

A-Fraud Flunks Test

■ Alex Rodriguez Admits to Steroid Use, MLB Looking for Answers
Baseball's attempt to clean it's image dealt blow by A-Rod Admission.

H. GORE
SPORTS EDITOR

A new chapter was added to Major League Baseball's steroid story when the Yankees' Alex Rodriguez admitted last week to using banned substances from 2001 to 2003 while playing with the Texas Rangers. Rodriguez came clean after a Feb. 7 Sports Illustrated report stated he tested positive for two steroids in 2003.

"I was young. I was stupid. I was naive. And I wanted to prove to everyone that, you know, I was worth being one of the greatest players of all time," Rodriguez told ESPN. "And I did take a banned substance. You know, for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful."

Rodriguez' admission was the dominate story in and out of the sports world last week, even gaining the attention of President Barack Obama.

"And if you're a fan of Major League Baseball, I think it tarnishes an entire era, to some degree," said Obama. "And it's unfortunate, because I think there are a lot of ballplayers who played it straight."

Although the positive results were over five years ago, and the 2003 tests were supposed to be kept private, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig considered a suspension for A-Rod. Thus far, Selig has been punishing Rodriguez in the media.

"While Alex deserves credit for publicly confronting the issue, there is no valid excuse for using such substances, and those who use them have shamed the game."

- Bud Selig
MLB Commissioner

Another idea being kicked around by the commissioner is reinstating Hank Aaron's 755

home runs as the all-time mark instead of the 762 posted by Barry Bonds. That's a bad decision and a case of reverse superstar treatment.

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor a player can receive from their sport. Guys like Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, and arguably Mark McGwire have Hall of Fame careers but will likely never make the hall due to their ties to performance-enhancing drugs. The injustice is that a run-of-the-mill player that gets caught using steroids only has to deal with the embarrassment of being a cheater, but he doesn't have his entire legacy damaged.

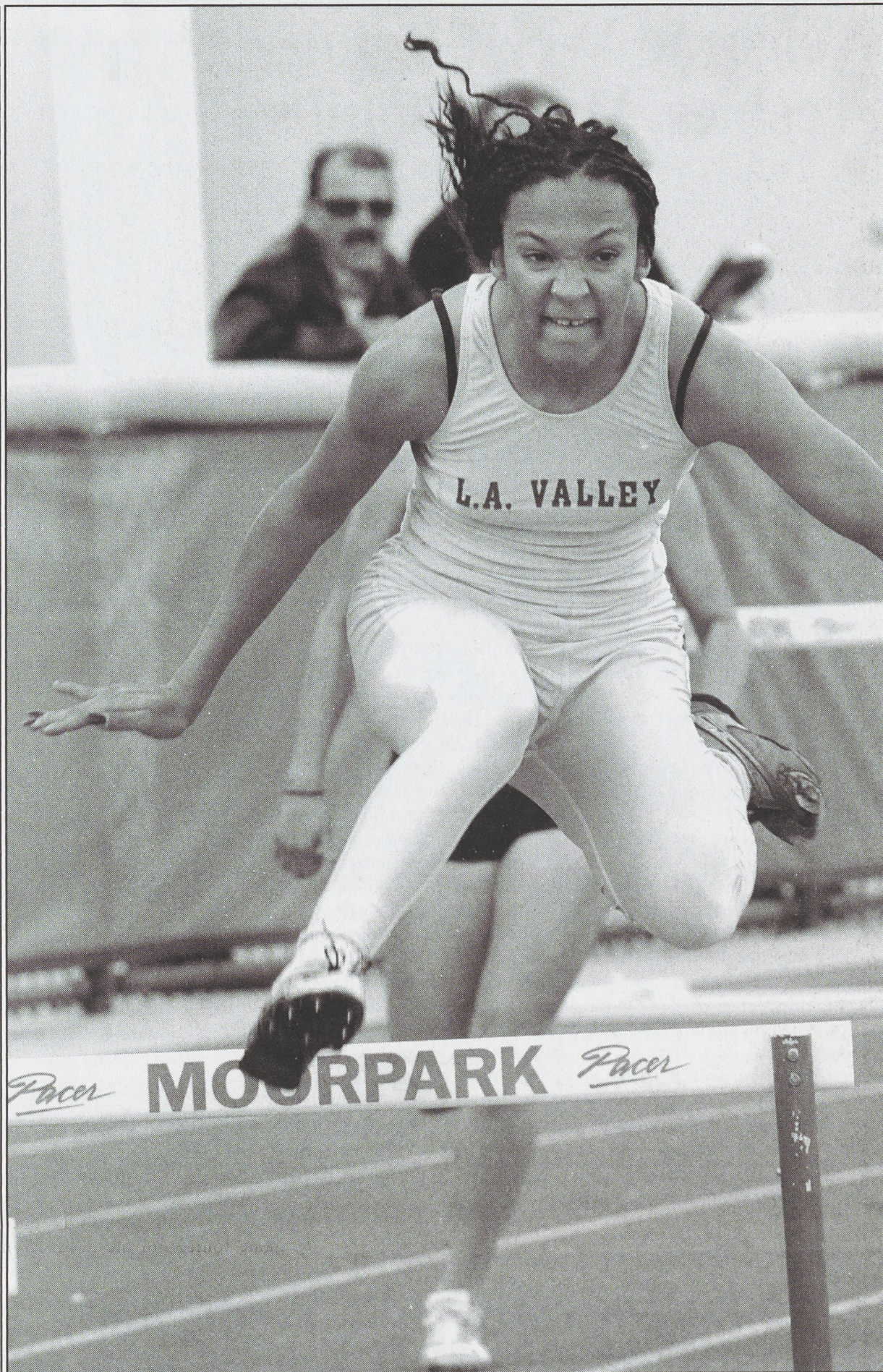
**"I was young. I was stupid. I was naive
And I wanted to prove to everyone that
I was worth being one of the greatest
players of all time."**

- Alex Rodriguez
New York Yankees Third Basemen

As unfair as it seems, the only solution to the Steroid Era is to record it in the books and let the numbers stand. There have been instances throughout the history of baseball in which equality hasn't been exacted.

Bob Gibson of the St. Louis Cardinals had an astounding 1.12 ERA in 1968 when the mound stood at 15 inches instead of 10 inches as it does today. The sizes of the ballparks have become more hitter friendly in the last 20 years, allowing for higher offensive numbers. But the biggest change came in 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. The players of the 20s and 30s didn't face the same level of competition as the players of the integrated 60s and 70s.

Alex Rodriguez has 8 to 10 years left in his career, which gives him the chance to clean the stain on his image and prove that he can put up numbers substance free. That's enough time for the perception of the Steroid Era to have changed. Not to the degree that it's no longer mentioned, but enough that guys can be considered hall worthy even after making a huge mistake.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
In Stride-Valley College track star, Sylvia Alboniga, negotiates the first set of hurdles in her first place finish in the womens 400m hurdles during the Western Conference Meet #1 held at Moorpark College on Thursday.

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Reliving the Glory

■ Hall of Fame Committee recognizes 1995 Valley College football team.

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

As the Valley College football program looks forward to the much-anticipated season ahead, a team from the past looks to celebrate their achievements with Valley pride.

On June 27, for only the third time in the College's history, the Hall of Fame committee will induct a select few athletes into the elite Valley Hall of Fame. Amongst those to be inducted is the entire 1995 Western Conference Championship football team, which went on to face Long Beach Poly for the National Championship in the Strawberry Bowl. The team would go on to transfer about 18 of their players to Division 1 schools with one kicker/punter, Jose Cortez, who would later go on to play in the NFL for five years.

"I feel really good about them as a team being inducted...It was a great staff and a team of excellent players," said Athletic Director and committee member Chuck Ferrero. "They were a team which gave Valley a lot of pride."

The team featured a series of great athletes who would go on to accomplish great things outside of Valley College, as well as some who would return to give back to the program.

One of the inductees, Julio Gramajo, coaches defensive line for Valley, and also sits on the LAVC Hall of Fame Committee.

"It's a great privilege for me to not only have played for the '95 team, but also to be coaching for Valley now, allowing me to give a little back to the Valley family," Gramajo said.

Coach Gramajo would go on to play defensive line for the University of Western New Mexico after his two years at Valley, before returning to coach D-Line for the Monarch squad. So far, Coach Gramajo and the Committee are expecting around 20 to 25 former players from the 1995 team to show up, including Quarterback Aaron Flowers and Running back Marcus Harvy, who broke multiple records which still stand today.

Along with the players who will be coming from

all parts of the country, the committee expects alumnus coach Rob Phenicie, who now coaches for the University of Montana, Jim Fenwick, head coach of the 1995 team and many more of the 1995 football staff to celebrate the accomplishments of the team.

Other inductees will include Track Coach, James Harvey, Mark Colvert for track and field, Robbie Mulkey for softball, Bill Krauss for swimming and water polo, Billy Reid for outstanding athlete, Mark Scarpace and Don Schinnick for playing and coaching at Valley college. Mark Scarpace would go on to play for USC after his time at

"I think we have had a lot of distinguished athletes, and we are proud of reconnecting with them."

- Raul Castillo
Director of the LAVC Foundation

Valley and would eventually come back to coach the Monarchs.

Don Shinnick would go on to play in the NFL and still holds the record for most career interceptions by a linebacker in the league. He was inducted into the California Community College Sports Hall of Fame in 1995 for coaching and playing at Los Angeles Valley College. Don passed away on June 20, 2004, but will forever be remembered at Valley for his outstanding achievements and dedication to the Valley College football program.

As the ceremony approaches this summer it is clear that many around the campus are proud of it's athletes and committee members involved in the celebration.

"I think we have had a lot of distinguished athletes, and we are proud about reconnecting with them," said Director of the Foundation Committee, Raul Castillo.

SPORTS

7

Monarch Basketball: A Tale of Two Teams

■ Valley men hope to gain a playoff berth with a victory over West Los Angeles while the women hope to finish a long season on a high note.

ROBERT KING
STAFF WRITER

Men's Head Basketball Coach Virgil Watson was studying game film calmly in his office Thursday, after a solid victory at Bakersfield the night before. The same couldn't be said about the women's team who lost their 6th straight game the same night.

"As long as we come out and play our game and focus on each game individually," said Coach Watson, "the rest will take care of itself." The rest is securing a bid in the state playoffs which begin next week.

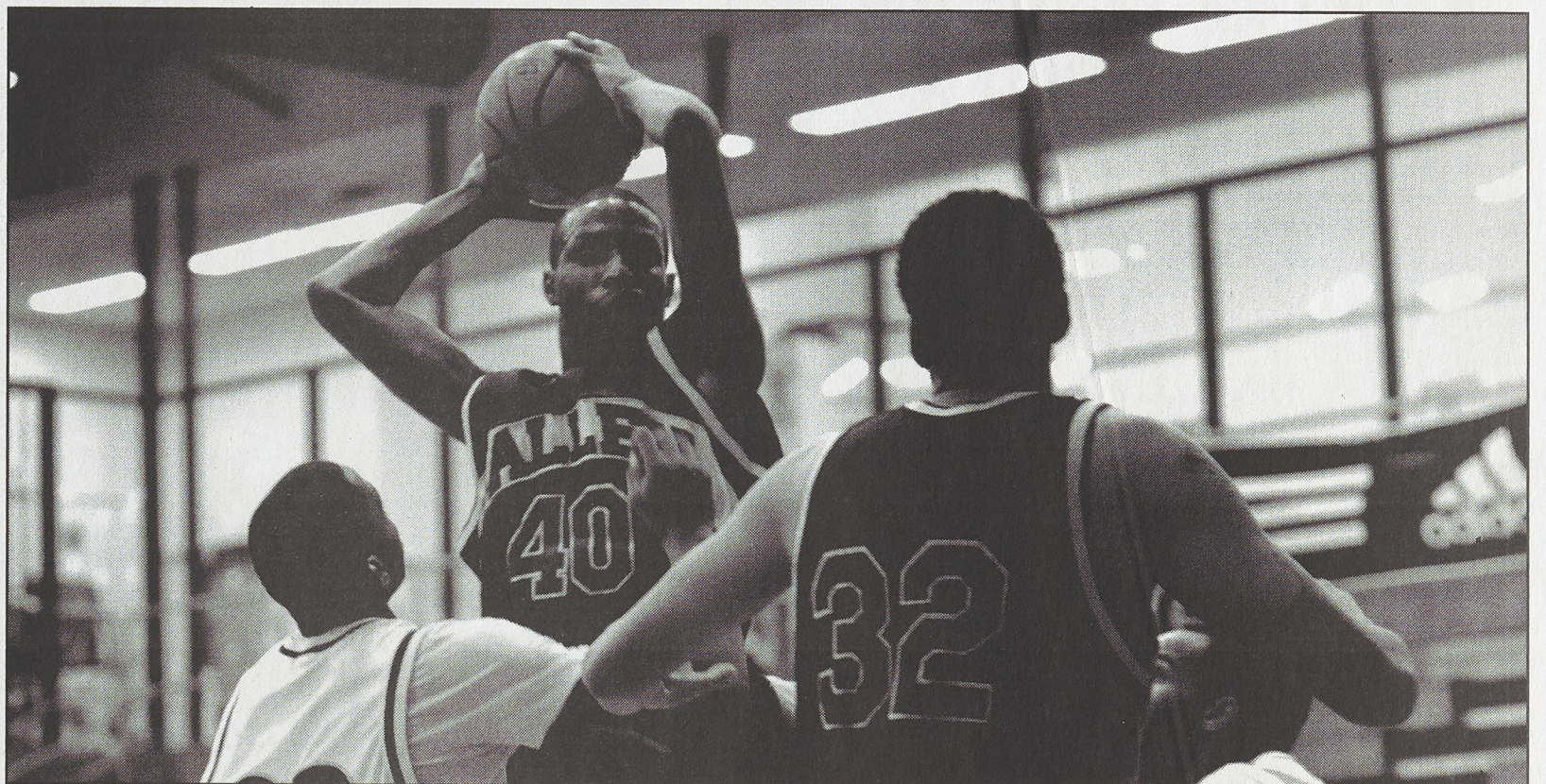
While most students were on break during the winter, the Valley men's and women's basketball teams fought through their schedules with varying results between the two teams.

The men, who are 16-10 overall and 7-4 in the Western State Conference, have forged a winning record and, according to Coach Watson and others, have a legitimate chance to make the state playoffs with a key win to end the season.

The women, 5-23 overall and 1-10 in conference, however, have had a season most would like to forget while battling a slew of injuries to key players.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
CRUNCH TIME-Valley College guard, Nate Bichara is called for a charge in the early minutes of the game against College of the Canyons on Saturday. Bichara and his team mates played hard on both ends of the court as they fought to keep their playoff hopes alive



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
HITTING THE BOARDS-Valley College center, Curtis Leslie, made his presence known as he hits the boards hard and pulls down an offensive rebound during the Monarch's victory on the road against College of the Canyons on Saturday.

February 11, the two teams traveled to Bakersfield to take on the Renegades. The women, playing with only seven players available, were able to take the game to the last seconds but went down 54-52.

In stark contrast, the men played a nearly perfect game, defeating Bakersfield 95-76 to improve their position in the playoff race.

On Valentine's Day, the Monarchs visited College of the Canyons, again with mixed results. The men came out and played a solid game, defeating the Cougars 87-76. The women, however, suffered their worst defeat of the season, 109-42.

Entering last week, Bakersfield's men were ahead of the Monarchs by one and a half games in the WSC-Southern Division standings, but the Monarchs were able to close the gap by beating the Renegades and keeping pace with a win on Saturday.

Both teams have only one remaining regular season home game tonight in the South Gym against West Los Angeles. The men's game starts at 5 p.m. and the women will follow at approximately 7 p.m.

MONARCH SPORTS THE NEXT FIVE

Feb. 18 - vs. West L.A. @ Home 5 p.m. (Men's and Women's basketball),

Feb. 19 - vs. West Los Angeles @ West Los Angeles, 2 p.m. (Baseball)

Feb. 19 - vs. Santa Barbara City College @ Santa Barbara, 2:30 p.m. (Softball)

Feb. 21 - Cerritos Invitational @ Cerritos College, 10 a.m. (Track and Field)

Feb. 21 - vs. West Los Angeles @ Home, 1 p.m. (Baseball)

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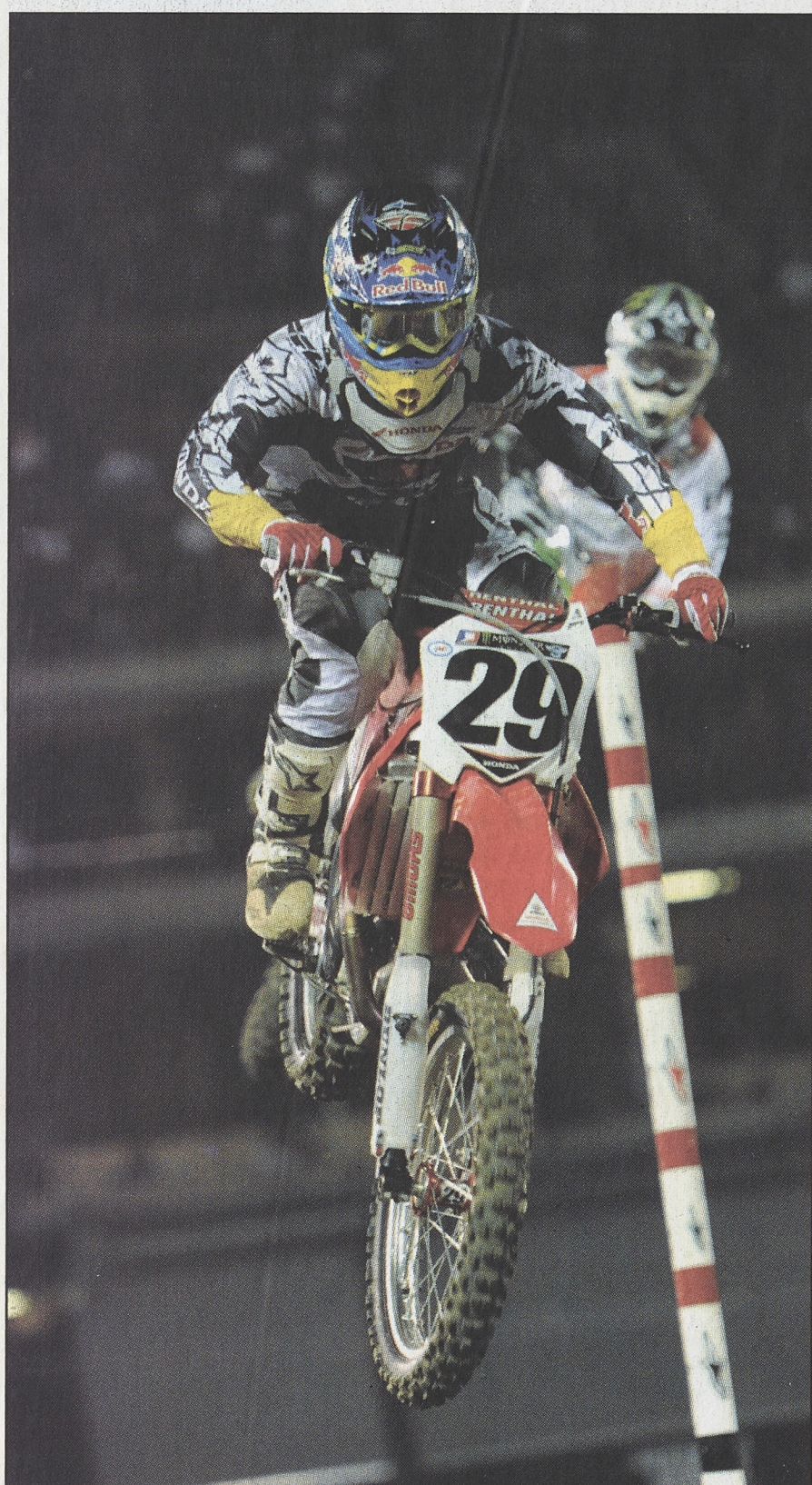
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GALLERY



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

HIGH FLYING DAREDEVILS - Two supercross racers appear to be flying across Angel Stadium as they come off of a big jump and prepare themselves for their next set of obstacles as fans cheer on. Closed track racing evolved from the early days of European cross country racing.



PRECISION RACING - Riders negotiate a metal pole before landing and setting up for a series of tight banked turns and moguls during the last qualifying event.



CRITICAL MASS-Riders fight for position at the start of each heat. Races are often won or lost between the starting line and the first turn.

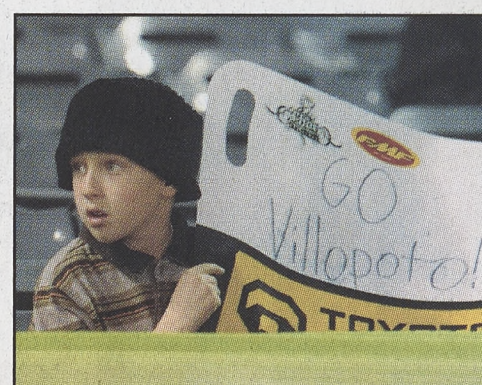
AMA Supercross Racing Series in Anaheim

SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

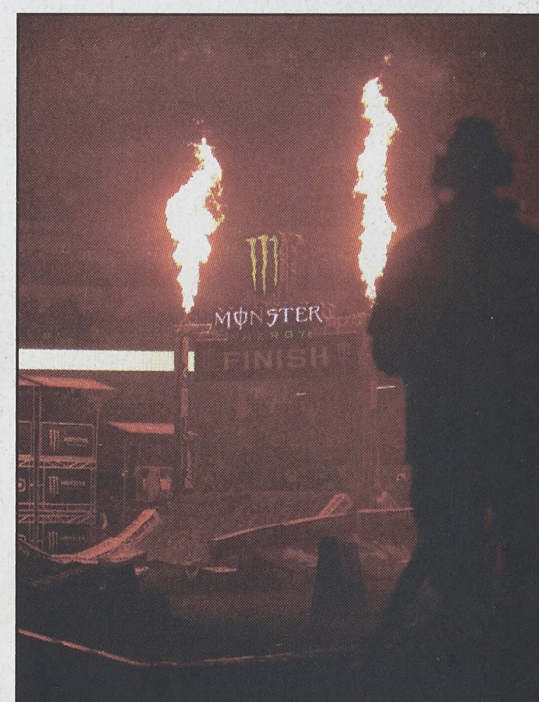
The American Motorcycle Association Supercross racing series launched their 34th season in Anaheim on Jan. 3. Three of the four races in the series were held at Angel Stadium between January and Feb. 7. Riders and teams from around the world will be competing for the coveted championship, which will be announced at the end of the season in Las Vegas, Nev.

Supercross racing, which continues to grow in popularity in the US and abroad, features motocross racing on man-made courses inside stadiums. Supercross offers fans off-road racing on smaller closed tracks located in major cities. Supercross races are shorter than motorcross, meaning fewer laps per race. The technical skills and endurance of the riders are challenged throughout the course, which is filled with jumps, hills, tight turns, and obstacles.

"My kids got me hooked on the sport a few years ago," said Bobby Serra, owner of Turbo Performance in Van Nuys. "I liked it so much that once or twice a year we make it an all day family event. Stadium supercross is a lot more exciting than the old days when you had to pack up the station wagon and spend the day fighting the elements in the desert."



HEROES- A young fan cheers on his favorite rider during an early heat.



IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT - A light show with flames set the stage as riders enter the stadium.